



ARCHER & GREINER, P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CHRISTOPHER R. GIBSON  
*Also Member of Pennsylvania Bar*

ONE CENTENNIAL SQUARE  
HADDONFIELD, NJ 08033-0968  
856-795-2121  
FAX 856-795-0574

Email Address:  
cgibson@archerlaw.com

Direct Dial:  
(856) 354-3077

[www.archerlaw.com](http://www.archerlaw.com)

July 31, 2009

**Document Submitted via Fax and Regular Mail**

Honorable Karen M. Williams, U.S.M.J.  
United States District Court  
Mitchell H. Cohen U.S. Courthouse  
Camden, NJ 08101

*RECEIVED  
AUG 3 - 2009  
KAREN M. WILLIAMS  
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE*

**RE: *Peter Zilahy Ingerman v. DRPA***  
**Civil Action No.: 08-5117 (JHR)**  
**Request to File Sur-Reply to Plaintiff's New Fee Request**

Dear Judge Williams,

Defendant Delaware River Port Authority ("DRPA") submits this letter seeking leave to respond to Plaintiff's new request for additional fees, which request is set forth in Plaintiff's Reply Declaration Supporting Fee Request filed July 21, 2009. In that declaration, Plaintiff asks this Court for an additional grant of \$3,000 in attorney's fees—a nearly 18% increase over his original fee application. Upon the direction of Your Honor's law clerk, Defendant now submits this letter asking leave of the Court to file a sur-reply to Plaintiff's new request. A sur-reply is necessary because this matter is to be decided without oral argument, and Plaintiff's new fee request was first raised in his reply brief. Without leave to file a reply, Defendant will have no opportunity to challenge the new request.

In its Response to Plaintiff's initial fee application, Defendant argued that the \$500/hr rate proposed by Mr. Gross was significantly higher than the prevailing market rate. Allowing the applying party to recover fees incurred in defending an unreasonable rate would provide a problematic incentive to inflate the proposed hourly rate in the initial fee application, inviting additional fee litigation, which in turn balloons the size of the fee request. Defendant is aware of U.S. Supreme Court precedent warning against this very scenario. Defendant

**PRINCETON OFFICE**  
700 Alexander Park  
Suite 102  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
P 609-580-3700  
F 609-580-0051

**FLEMINGTON OFFICE**  
Plaza One  
1 State Route 12, Suite 201  
Flemington, NJ 08822-1722  
P 908-788-9700  
F 908-788-7854

**PHILADELPHIA OFFICE**  
One Liberty Place - 32nd Floor  
1650 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7393  
P 215-963-3300  
F 215-963-9999

**WILMINGTON OFFICE**  
300 Delaware Avenue  
Suite 1370  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
P 302-777-4350  
F 302-777-4352

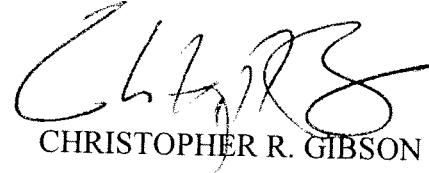
**GEORGETOWN OFFICE**  
9 East Market Street  
P.O. Box 977  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
P-302-858-5151  
F-302-858-5161

**NEW YORK OFFICE**  
2 Penn Plaza  
Suite 1500  
New York, NY 10121  
P 212-292-4988  
F 212-629-4568

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anticipates that if granted leave, its sur-reply would be very brief—under two pages in letter form.

Respectfully submitted,



CHRISTOPHER R. GIBSON

CRG/bcp

cc: John R. Powers, Esquire  
Frederick J. Gross, Esquire (Fax and Regular Mail)

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So Ordered this 4<sup>th</sup> day  
of August, 2009  
Kris  
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